

SUGAR LAND TODAY

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST

October - November 2006



Senior Center Expansion Update

Exciting things are happening for Sugar Land senior citizens this fall! The Parks and Recreation Administration offices moved across the hall to the former Fire Administration offices, allowing expansion of the Senior Center, located at 200 Matlage Way. The project will more than double the center's size. Construction began in September, with completion expected by early 2007.

The Senior Center remains open through construction, though some programs may move to the Sugar Land Community Center. Parks and Recreation staff is committed to minimizing any inconveniences. Stay tuned for more information on the open house being planned for January!

For more information call (281) 275-2885.

Public Safety Gears Up For Community Volunteerism

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita proved the value of community volunteerism during emergencies.

The Sugar Land Police Department took advantage of this knowledge to restructure its Community Assistance Support Team (CAST). This volunteer group is comprised of Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association members. CAST will provide support for major incident response, patrol, victim services and police training. The reorganization follows a "best

practices" review of 46 programs across the nation, including 19 in Texas. During major emergencies (i.e., SWAT, HazMat, Fatality Accidents, Natural Disasters), CAST members focus on:

- rehab of public safety workers (provide food, water, etc.);
- crowd control;
- traffic control; and
- phone banks

In addition, CAST supports SLPD's patrol efforts by issuing warnings for handicap violators, deploying "Ghost Cars," con-

ducting park checks, performing house watches and more. The volunteers also assist SLPD's victim services coordinator, support police training and help with the Citizen Police Academy.

In addition to 12 weeks of training in the Sugar Land Citizen Police Academy, volunteers receive 10 hours of classroom training and eight hours in the field focusing on the following areas: organization and policies, warrant call-ups, radio procedures,

See "CAST" on page 5



CAST grads with SLPD personnel.

Fingers Furniture 4

The industry icon will relocate its corporate headquarters and distribution center to Sugar Land, creating 70 new jobs and over \$27 million in new tax value for the City.

Budget Approved 6

The City's \$141.6 million fiscal year 2006-07 budget includes a tax rate of 30.655 cents, which represents a decrease of 1.056 cents. Since 2000, Sugar Land's property tax rate has lowered each year.

Tree Trimming 10

Compliance with new provisions of the City's tree trimming ordinance ensures that large vehicles – such as fire trucks and ambulances – are able to safely navigate City roadways.



A few months ago, residents attending the District Town Hall meetings were able to directly offer feedback to their respective City Council member. These meetings provided a wonderful opportunity for residents to talk to City Council members and City staff about our service delivery to you.

To assure that we continue to get feedback from our residents, the City is continuing its citywide, every two-year citizen satisfaction survey. This random telephone survey sampling of residents is planned for late October/early November. With increasing survey and telemarketing phone calls vying for your time, it's easy to dismiss these calls. However, if you receive

a call from Creative Consumer Research, an independent local survey firm, I respectfully encourage you to take 10 minutes and answer their questions regarding City services. It will help us know how we are doing in delivering the most effective, efficient services and programs available. For example, two years ago residents had strong interest in economic development and the availability of more cultural activities. Since then, the growth in businesses in our community is astounding. Cultural opportunities also have increased, and we continue to review options to develop further programs for citizens.

For the upcoming survey, a statistically accurate number of Sugar Land citizens will be asked questions relating to their satisfaction with all City services. These questions are structured around the six City Council goals that are listed on this page. The survey is an important way to determine how we are doing in meeting our goals. We are very interested in residents' sense of safety in their community.

The survey questions will also ask about park and street conditions, City services such as parks and recreation, emergency, utility, animal control, waste management and code enforcement. Quality of life questions on the condition of neighborhoods and Sugar Land's appeal as a place to live also will be included.

Sugar Land is a diverse community, and it is important to know what all of our residents think. The survey process is structured to help assure a balanced response from residents that takes into consideration such demographic factors as gender, age, ethnicity and income.

Participation in the citizen satisfaction survey helps us help you. We will keep you posted on survey dates through press releases and our City Web site. I hope you will respond if called.

SUGAR LAND GOALS

- Well-planned community
- Safest city in the area
- Strong local economy
- Responsible city government
- Mobility for people
- Livable neighborhoods

CITY COUNCIL

David G. Wallace
Mayor

Thomas Abraham
At-Large Position One

Daniel O. Wong
At-Large Position Two

Dennis C. Parmer
Single Member District One

Cyril Hosley
Single Member District Two
Mayor Pro Tem

Russell C. Jones
Single Member District Three

Michael S. Schiff
Single Member District Four

CITY MANAGEMENT

Allen Bogard
City Manager

David Ellison
Assistant City Manager

Karen Glynn
Assistant City Manager

Contributors

David Ambrocik, Jennifer Brown, Stuart Denton, Mike Goodrum, Steve Griffith, Shashi Kumar, Mike Leech, Richard Mancilla, Michael McLemore, Regina Morales, Andy Peal, Kelly Penewitt, Teresa Preza, Phil Savko, Tracey Siu, Adam Smith, Dannie Smith, Donna Svatek, Clayton Taylor, Pat Walsh

Have Questions?

Ask
City

The Community Action Center is a resource for residents who do not know where or whom to call. Residents will receive timely responses to their inquiries, requests and concerns.

To contact the Community Action Center:

E-mail: askcity@sugarlandtx.gov

Log On: www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on "Ask City"

Call: 281-ASK-CITY (281-275-2489)

Visit: City Hall at 2700 Town Center Blvd. North during business hours (Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Sugar Land Today is published every two months by the City of Sugar Land. Send your comments to: editor@sugarlandtx.gov.

Airport Lobby Features Regional Artwork

Among the many amenities visitors to the new terminal at the Sugar Land Regional Airport enjoy are exhibits of original works of art. As visitors to the airport walk through the main terminal they are greeted by two walls, which have been dedicated as the location for rotating exhibits from artists throughout the area.

The inaugural exhibit, which coincided with the terminal's grand opening, featured works from the Sugar Land Area Art-

ists in a "Texas" theme. Exhibits are changed every 30 to 60 days. The current display is a "Floral Extravaganza" provided by the Conroe Art League. "We continue to receive compliments on our new terminal and the innovative ways we have created a sense of comfortable and inviting space for our travelers," says Phillip Savko, Sugar Land's Director of Aviation. "By providing amenities like the art display, we continue to set ourselves apart and enhance the travel experience."



mobility

Highway Construction Continues Into 2008

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) construction projects continue. As these important mobility upgrades advance, the City encourages residents to drive safely and stay informed about construction changes. All projects are expected to be completed by late 2008.

U.S. Highway 59 Expansion (State Highway 6 to Grand Parkway)

When completed:

- Four lanes and a diamond HOV lane will travel in both directions, similar to the completed section of U.S. 59 at State Highway 6.
- U.S. 59 main lanes will pass over the Grand Parkway, with frontage roads at ground level. The demolition and reconstruction work on the existing Grand Parkway bridge over U.S. 59 is scheduled for the first quarter of 2007. As updated information comes available, the City will keep residents informed.

State Highway 6/U.S. Highway 90 Expansion

Construction continues on U.S. 90A from west of State Highway 6 to Ulrich Street and on State Highway 6 from First Colony Boulevard to north of U.S. 90A. In this area, the southern four main lanes of U.S. 90A are complete, and the northern four lanes of U.S. 90A are expected to be completed this October. On State Highway 6, southbound traffic has been shifted to the new frontage roads south of U.S. 90A. Construction of the State Highway 6 frontage roads continues north of U.S. 90A. Completion is expected in fall 2007, when State Highway 6 main lanes will pass over University Boulevard and U.S. 90A and the railroad.

U.S. 90A – Three Phases

The U.S. 90A expansion from its intersection with U.S. 59 and



west to Brooks Street will widen U.S. 90A from four to eight lanes with a 30-foot wide grassy median with curb and gutter. During construction, the speed limit will remain at 45 mph. With few exceptions, TxDOT expects to maintain the existing number of lanes open during peak hours. At the City's request, TxDOT has included additional turn lanes along many of the City cross streets where they approach U.S. 90A. These turn lanes and other pavement enhancements will provide additional capacity and accommodate potential quiet zone improvements along the railroad tracks. These features are intended to improve safety and mobility along U.S. 90A.

The aesthetic features of U.S. 90A will be consistent with other TxDOT projects in Sugar Land. This includes ornamental traffic signal poles at all intersections and landscaping.

Phase I

All work will occur on the south side of U.S. 90A, including permanent pavement for eastbound traffic, an access barrier wall and frontage road from Alkire Lakes Drive to Lombardy Drive and a sound wall from Lombardy Drive to Savoy Street.

Phase II

The permanent westbound lanes will be constructed on the north side of U.S. 90A. Westbound traffic will be shifted to the recently completed southern four lanes to accommodate work on the north side of U.S. 90A.

Phase III

The westbound traffic will travel on the permanent north side lanes, and work will be completed on the median.

Finger Furniture Company Moves Corporate Headquarters to Sugar Land Business Park

Finger Furniture Company Inc., an industry icon in the Houston region since 1927, recently announced the relocation of its company's corporate headquarters and distribution center to Sugar Land.

This is Finger's first relocation since 1965. The new facility will encompass Finger's corporate and administrative operations, house its inventory and serve as the company's central distribution center.

The plans include acquisition of an existing 172,800-square-foot facility and 21.11 acres. The project contains improvements to the existing shell for corporate offices and a warehouse, with a Phase I expansion of 196,564 square feet that will bring the total facility size to 369,364 square feet. Finger's future expansions will ultimately increase the facility to 500,000 square feet in Sugar Land Business Park.

Finger's proposed relocation will result in 170 new jobs, \$12 million in real property improvements, \$3 million in new personal property and more than \$12 million in inventory.

It also will create over \$27 million in new taxable value for the City.

Aggressive recruitment by the City's economic development team was instrumental in luring the 79-year-old business to Sugar Land, which continues to fuel the increase in corporate headquarter relocations to the City. Fort Bend County and Municipal Utility District 21 followed the City's lead with abatement agreements.

"After a multi-year search, Finger Furniture is extremely pleased that we were fortunate enough to find our new corporate home in Sugar Land," said Robert S. Finger, Finger Furniture's president and chief executive officer. "Finger Furniture is entering a new phase of growth that is unprecedented in the history of our company. Our new distribution center/corporate headquarters will enable our company to manage this growth in order to ensure maximum efficiency and customer satisfaction. The excitement and growth



Robert and Rodney Finger join Sugar Land City Council and City Manager to formally announce the relocation of the Finger Furniture Company's corporate headquarters and distribution center to Sugar Land.

of the Sugar Land community parallels that of our company, and we couldn't think of a better community to call home."

Finger Furniture Company, Inc. has been family owned and operated since it was founded in 1927 by Sam and Annie Finger. Its first store opened in the 3000 block of South Main in Houston. Today, the company operates six stores, including the 14-acre

Magnificent Furniture Center on the Gulf Freeway and a 65,000 square foot store in Sugar Land. Using state-of-the-art technology, warehouse operations, advertising, public relations, delivery, and service facilities, Finger Furniture continues its leadership in the industry. Today the company claims to have the region's largest selection of name brand furniture.

Welcome to Bechtel Equipment Operations

Bechtel Equipment Operations (BEO) — the asset management division of Bechtel Company, an internationally recognized engineering and construction industry leader — is relocating its regional headquarters to 4.2 acres in the Sugar Land Business Park. The company plans to construct a 41,600-square-foot facility.

The relocation will consolidate BEO's operations from Louis-

ville, Kentucky, and Deer Park, Texas. The company plans to relocate 25 jobs and create 15 new positions with an average salary of \$65,000 before benefits. Total project impact is expected to create more than \$7 million in new capital value for the community.

Sugar Land created a strategic incentive package of direct incentives and tax abatements to successfully secure BEO's

relocation, which also included participation from Fort Bend County and Municipal Utility District 21.

BEO has provided a fully integrated fleet management approach to the supply of construction equipment to their customers' projects around the world for the past 55 years. This asset management group will provide equipment with their Business Systems Group and the Tool &

Supply Group to several power plant projects throughout Texas. BEO has been a key contributor to Bechtel's success by providing equipment and related services to Bechtel, as well as their clients, subcontractors and joint ventures.

The relocation of BEO to Sugar Land expands the recent successful trend of corporate headquarters relocations due to the City's aggressive, but sound, economic development initiatives.

Spotlight: Unique Industrial Products

Unique Industrial Products is another in a long line of Sugar Land Business Park success stories. The company—a leading international supplier of quality-engineered steel products used in the plumbing, hydraulics and HVAC industries—services domestic markets, as well as the Far East and South America.

The company opened its current 100,000-square-foot headquarters and distribution center on 8.2 acres in January 2006. Less than a year later, Unique Industrial Products is announcing an additional 70,000-square-foot expansion, which will increase the company's local work force from 60 to 75.

The City utilized a tax abatement agreement to initially attract the company, amending the agreement on Aug. 15 to include the expansion. Fort Bend County and Fort Bend Municipal Utility District 21 participated in the project with the City.

Unique Industrial Products is located in the Pelec Develop-

ment on the east side of the Sugar Land Business Park on Cardinal Meadows Drive. This 100-plus-acre development has seen significant activity in the last year with the construction of the Zeenat, Inc. distribution center and the announcement of the Advance Polybag Corporation facility.

safety

CAST

Continued from cover

phone bank procedures, special circumstances (such as traffic, crowd control and incident command) and patrol procedures (i.e., traffic laws, driving safety, house watches, citizen contact, etc.).

Specialized training is provided on a follow-up basis, as needed.

CAST members travel in specially marked cars with warning lights and wear distinctive clothing, including polo-style shirts with CAST logos.

Citizen Fire Academy Offers Hands-on Experience

Sugar Land Fire Department provides a vast array of emergency and non-emergency operations for its citizens and its un-incorporated jurisdiction. Like many other U.S. fire departments, it has evolved from a traditional fire department responding to fires

into an entity with many other responsibilities like training, education, prevention, hazardous materials, dive team and other emergency response.

Educational opportunities have expanded beyond fire prevention for children and smoke alarm installations and include

information on fire department activities and operations.

Sugar Land Fire Department has joined fire departments around the country in successfully implementing a citizen fire academy. This builds on existing information



During the 10-week course, Citizen Fire Academy members learn firsthand about emergency response.

SLPD Beat Manager Update



Residents were introduced to the Sugar Land Police Department's beat managers in the February-March 2006 issue of this newsletter. Recently, the managers of Beats 1 and 4 switched positions.

Each manager is responsible for a geographic area known as a beat, which includes at least two detectives, one traffic officer and one crime prevention officer. For more information: www.sugarlandtx.gov.

Beat 1

Lt. Justin Joyce 281-275-2552
jjoyce@sugarlandtx.gov

Beat 2

Lt. David Marcaurele
281-275-2522
dmarcaurele@sugarlandtx.gov

Beat 3

Lt. Mark Grothaus 281-275-2547
mgrothaus@sugarlandtx.gov

Beat 4

Lt. Michelle Allen 281-275-2917
mallen@sugarlandtx.gov

delivery and citizen participation in fire department activities.

Class members become more familiar with the challenges faced by firefighters along with learning about the equipment they use, fire science, fire prevention and disaster preparedness. Class members meet for three hours one evening a week during the 10-week course, which also includes two eight-hour Saturdays.

Topics include: fire department organization and history, fire communications, firefighter requirements and recruitment,

apparatus and equipment, first aid/CPR, EMS/Rescue, fire science, protective equipment, fire prevention, disaster preparedness and fire incident management. Additionally, participants can experience fire extinguisher training, hands-on fire training opportunities at the fire field and a "ride-along" on a fire engine.

The next academy program begins in late February 2007 and sign-up information will be available in January. For more information, contact Captain Michael McLemore at (281)-275-2859.

City Council Adopts 2006-2007 Annual Budget

Sugar Land City Council adopted a \$141.6 million budget for fiscal year 2006-2007 (Oct. 1, 2006, through Sept. 30, 2007) that effectively balances achievement of community needs and accomplishment of Council priorities, while maintaining financial strength. The budget is structurally balanced, with recurring revenues exceeding recurring expenditures.

Tax Rate Decreases

A tax rate of 30.655 cents is a decrease of 1.056 cents from the 2005 property tax rate. The lower tax rate is possible due to increases in commercial valuation from continued development, along with additional residential valuation resulting from the annexation of Fort Bend MUD113 (Avalon and Brazos Landing) in December 2005. The effect of the tax rate on the 2006 tax bill for the average home value of \$216,720 would be a .5 percent, or \$3.38 increase from last year. City Council reviewed the proposed budget through a series of workshops in August.

Emphasis on Drainage

Along with the

Annual Budget Breakdown				
	FY 2005/06 Amended	FY 2006/07 Adopted	% Increase	\$ Increase
City Operating Budget	\$91,634,197	\$102,247,679	11.58%	\$10,613,482
Component Units	23,499,685	7,998,541	-65.96%	-15,501,144
Capital Projects	22,861,238	31,369,988	37.22%	8,508,750
TOTAL	137,995,120	141,616,208	2.62%	3,621,088

decrease in the overall tax rate, an additional one-cent within the tax rate also is being earmarked for drainage, funding \$5 million in drainage capital improvements that would otherwise lack a funding source. For the first time, drainage makes up the largest component of the Capital Improvement Pro-

gram, emphasizing the City's focus on drainage needs.

"The budget asserts the City's commitment to meet and exceed the community's high expectations at a reasonable cost. Through continued growth and development, the City is poised to maintain an excellent financial outlook and continue providing a high quality of life."

—City Manager Allen Bogard

The \$141.6 million budget is a \$3.62 million or 2.62 percent increase over the total fiscal year 2005-2006 budget of \$137.99 million (amended in December 2005 to

include the Municipal Utility District 113 annexation).

New Positions Match Council Priorities

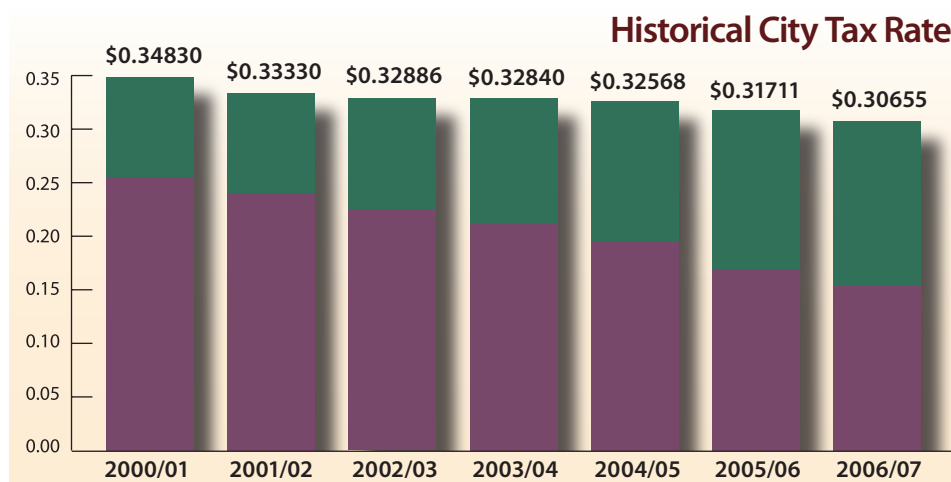
The budget includes the addition of 18 new positions to meet the priorities established by City Council at the beginning of the budget process. Budget priorities for fiscal year 2006-2007 include Code Enforcement, Special Crimes/Gang Task Force, Operating Impact of Capital Projects, New Development Needs, Right-of Way Maintenance and Implementation of the Information Technology Master Plan.

A small increase in utility revenues is included in the budget, largely driven by increased electricity rates. The City is currently studying its water/wastewater rates, and a proposed rate structure that achieves the revenues necessary to support the utility system will be one of the outcomes.

A five-year forecast is prepared for each major operating fund.

The forecast shows that the proposed budget is affordable, both this year and in future years, and will allow us to progress toward objectives identified in the financial management policy statements.

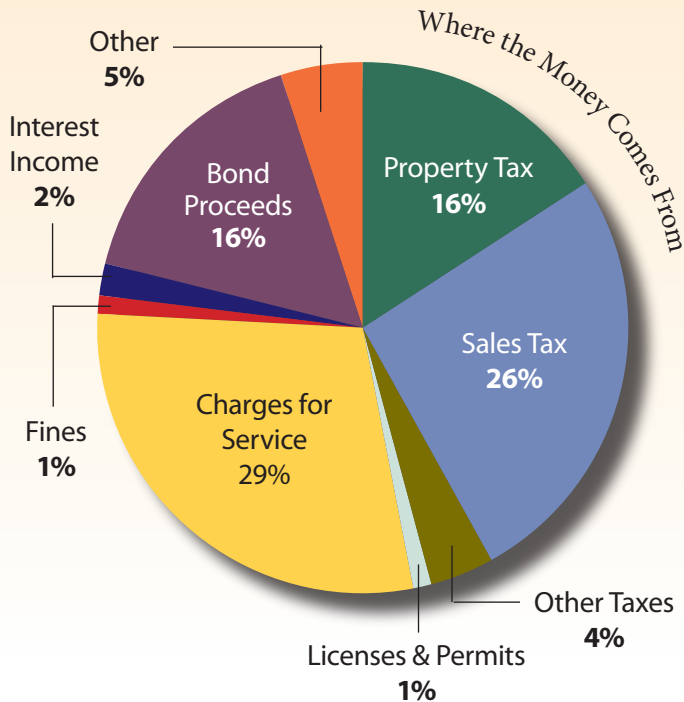
The budget is available on the City's Web site. Select "Departments," then "Budget."



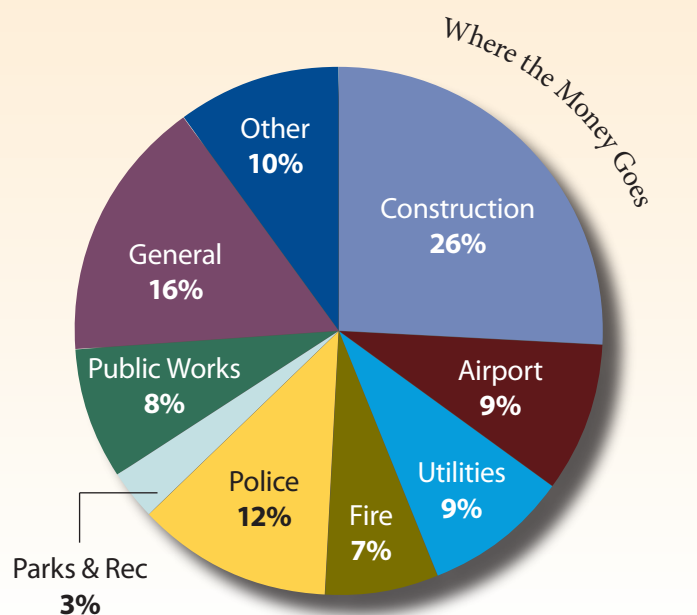
Since 2000, Sugar Land's property tax has lowered each year - representing a 12 percent decrease over the past seven years.

Fiscal Year 2006-2007: An Overview

Total Revenues: \$133.62 million



Total Expenditures: \$141.6 million



Total Expenditures include recurring and non-recurring uses of funds. Expenditures over revenues of \$7.98 million represent draw-down of existing fund balances for non-recurring uses and capital purchases.

Revenues

Other includes Grant Revenues, Developer Fees and Employee/City Contributions.

Other Taxes includes Hotel/Motel Occupancy Taxes and Franchise Fees for electricity, telephone and cable.

Licenses and Permits includes fees for permits issued for construction activity.

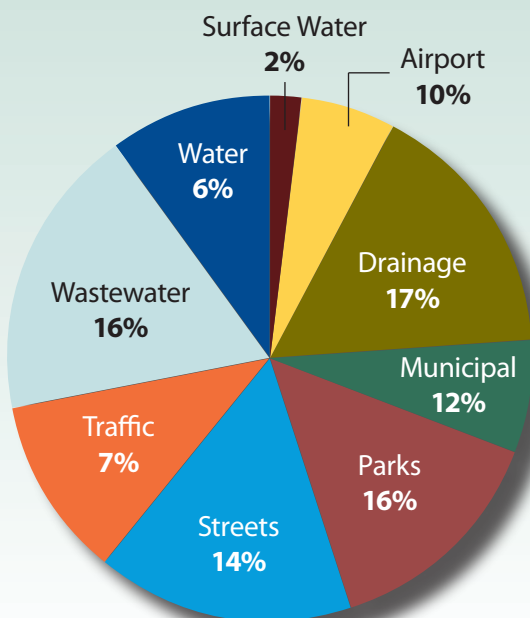
Charges for Service include fees for parks and recreation programs, fire protection, solid waste, utilities and Airport fuel sales and hangar rentals/leases.

Fines include the City's portion of municipal court fines and warrant fees. The state requires the City to charge \$78 in court costs in addition to the fine, of which the City keeps only 10 percent.

Interest Income includes earnings on invested City funds. The City has approximately \$80 million in funds that can be invested, which represent fund balances, bond proceeds, and other revenues collected but not yet spent.

Bond Proceeds represents the issuance of long-term debt. The City sells bonds in the municipal market and receives funds for construction projects, then repays the debt over 20 years with interest.

Capital Projects: \$31.37 million*



*The planned capital projects, included in Total Expenditures above, will be outlined in the December/January issue of *Sugar Land Today*.

Expenditures

General includes General Government, Business & Intergovernmental, Administrative & Internal Services, Fiscal Services and Community Development.

Other includes Economic Development Incentives, Insurance Coverage, Capital Replacement and Rebates & Assignments.

What's a LID? Who's Responsible for Drainage?

The August/September *Sugar Land Today* outlined the City's partnership with local jurisdictions in the protection of the public from flooding. One of these, Levee Improvement Districts, play a major role in the development of Sugar Land.

Much of Sugar Land is protected from flooding by a series of levees or earthen barriers that are designed to protect rising waters from inundating protected areas. Levees are typically constructed and maintained by Levee Improvement Districts (LIDs), which are entities authorized by the state. LIDs remove land from floodplains and enable development. Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution provides for LIDs and grants counties exclusive jurisdiction over the creation and operation of the districts.

A LID can be created to:

- construct and maintain levees and other improvements on, along and contiguous to rivers, creeks and streams;
- reclaim lands from overflow from these streams;
- control and distribute

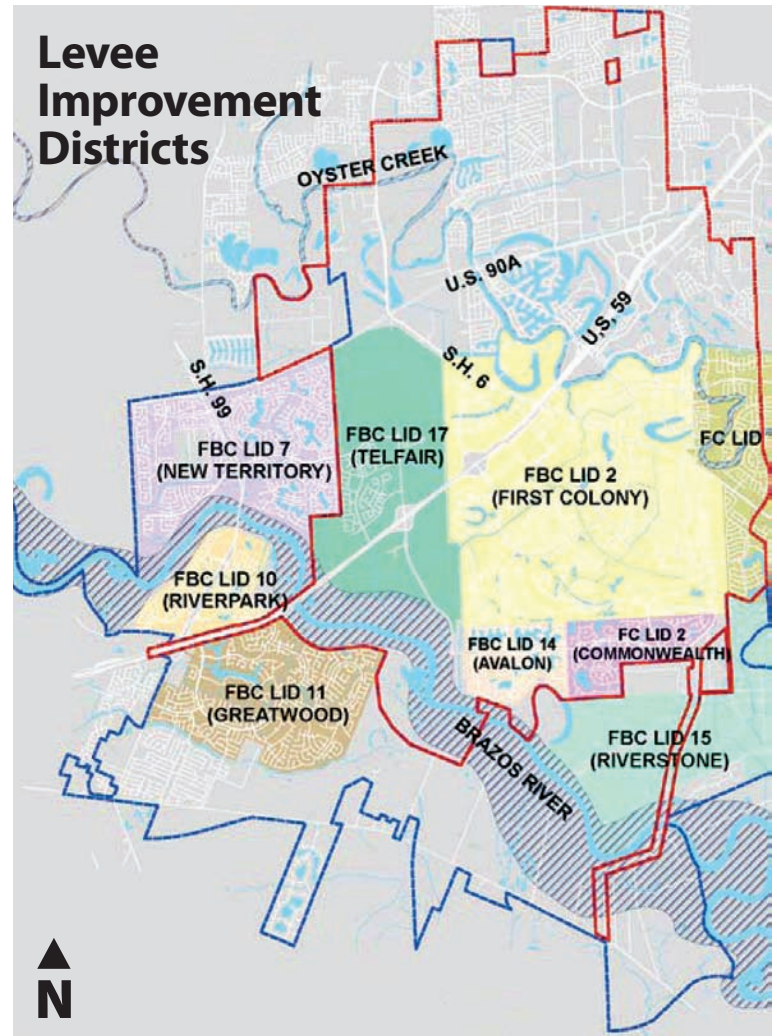
the waters of rivers and streams by straightening and otherwise improving them; and

- provide for the proper drainage and improvement of the reclaimed land.

In Fort Bend County, levees are mainly designed to offer flood protection from the Brazos River, with the intention of protecting land within LIDs during 100-year flood events.

Currently overlapping the corporate limits of Sugar Land are five LIDs: FBC LID 17 (Telfair), FBC LID 2 (First Colony), FC LID 1 (First Colony), FBC LID 14 (Avalon) and FC LID 2 (Commonwealth). There are also four LIDs located within the City's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction: FBC LID 7 (New Territory), FBC LID 10 (Riverpark), FBC LID 11 (Greatwood) and FBC LID 15 (Riverstone).

For LIDs located within Sugar Land's city limits, both the City and LID have drainage roles and responsibilities.



Help Lower Your Water/Wastewater Bill

Residential wastewater charges are based on the average water consumption of December, January and February billings; this average is called the wastewater cap. Water and wastewater bills from December through February are based on the actual amount of water used, so this is a good time to minimize outdoor water usage.

To minimize wastewater charges, repair leaky toilets or faucets immediately. Prompt detection and repair of leaks

will conserve water and control costs, especially during the winter quarter when the wastewater cap is removed. For more information on how to check for leaks, contact the Treasury Management Department at (281) 275-2750 or visit the home page on the City's Web site at www.sugarlandtx.gov.

Sugar Land is currently conducting a study to evaluate utility system costs and rates. Findings will be presented to City Council in January.

The City's primary drainage role is to ensure construction and maintenance of adequate infrastructure to convey subdivision drainage to outfall channels located within the LIDs. The LIDs are mainly responsible for the construction, maintenance and operation of levees and supporting structures (pump stations, outfall structures, etc.) associated with flood plain reclamation.

Currently, Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) in Fort Bend County are being revised as part of a nationwide effort initiated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to update and convert these maps into a digital format and

improve their accuracy. As part of this effort, the Brazos River is being studied, with data being utilized to re-map the Brazos floodplain. During this process, FEMA is requiring LIDs to ensure that their levee systems meet FEMA requirements necessary to protect against a 100-year flood. LIDs that fail to meet FEMA's inspection and certification requirements could potentially be classified as being within the Brazos flood hazard area, also known as the 100-year floodplain. This could require the LIDs to make improvements to their levee protection systems to meet FEMA's certification requirements.

Special collection event

On Saturday, Nov. 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Lost Creek Park, 3703 Lost Creek Blvd., Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, the City of Sugar Land and Fort Bend County are sponsoring a Batteries, Oil, Latex Paint and Antifreeze (BOPA) collection event for Sugar Land residents.

A valid Texas driver's license or other proof of residency will be required. Volunteers and staff from Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, the City, Fort Bend County, NALCO, Flex Oil Services and O'Reilly Auto Parts will be on hand to collect the BOPA materials. Donations will be accepted to pay for the cost of disposal.

ONLY residential waste (i.e., batteries – rechargeable household and automobile, motor oil and filters, latex paint

and antifreeze) will be accepted; business, medical and agricultural waste will NOT be accepted. Oil-based paints, solvents, flammables, pesticides, herbicides and other similar hazardous materials will NOT be accepted.

For more information on the Nov. 11 collection event, visit the Keep Sugar Land Beautiful Web site at www.kslb.org or call (281) 313-5752.

The Fort Bend County Recycle Center, located at 1200 Blume Road in Rosenberg, is open year-round and accepts BOPA materials, household hazardous waste (on designated days), electronics, appliances and recyclables. Fees may apply for some items. For more information or for hours of operation, call (281) 633-7527.



During the last collection event, volunteers collected 19 automobile batteries, 342 gallons of latex paint, 145 gallons of oil, one drum of oil filters and five gallons of antifreeze.

Benefits of Home Maintenance

The health of a home can be compared to our own personal health.

With regular maintenance, the occurrence and severity of problems are reduced. Benefits of home maintenance include:

- Save money by eliminating avoidable repairs and failures.
- Extend the life of home components, equipment and systems.
- Reduce safety and health risks.
- Maximize value and resale potential.
- Improve appearance and appeal.

Home maintenance includes everything from cleaning the interior and exterior to repairs and replacements. It can be a job as small as checking gutters for the accumulation of leaves to replacing siding or a roof. Maintenance is ultimately the work necessary to keep the house in a good state of repair.

Things don't last forever. Carpet, roofing, bathroom fittings and even siding will eventually need to be replaced, and it is always good to consider this as part of a long-term budget. Some of these tasks you can

do yourself, and others might require professional assistance. Before starting a major project, it is always a good idea to contact the Sugar Land Buildings and Inspections Division at (281) 275-2270 to determine if a permit is required.

Check the following items periodically to ensure they are functioning properly:

- **Roof:** Visually check shingles from the ground, watching for missing or broken shingles and buckling. Check for evidence of leaks from the attic.
- **Gutters and Downspouts:** Check and remove any debris to ensure unobstructed water flows away from the foundation.
- **Exterior Surfaces:** With brick, watch for cracks, deteriorating bricks or masonry. Check all siding, soffit and fascia for warping or rot. Check all painted surfaces to ensure adequate coating.
- **Windows & Doors:** Check for cracking or holes in caulking around doors and windows.
- **Heating & Cooling:** Make sure the outside unit is unobstructed and clean.



Six mayors representing almost 60 total years of service in Sugar Land City Council positions were honored along with other current and former City leaders and businesses at a special celebration in September. The event recognized those who contributed years of service to City activities resulting in a number of prestigious honors over the past five years. This year CNN/Money and *Money* magazine ranked Sugar Land the best place to live in the Southwest and the third best in America. The City was also recognized as one of the nation's "Best Places to Raise Your Family" and as one of the "Best Communities for Young People." Pictured (L-R) at the celebration are former Mayor **Bill Little**, Mayor **David G. Wallace**, and former mayors **Walter McMeans**, **Roy Cordes Sr.**, **Dean Hrbacek** and **Lee Duggan**.

Tree Trimming Enforcement Begins January 2007

Compliance with provisions of the City's tree trimming ordinance is required by January 2007. The tree-trimming ordinance ensures that proper clearance exists for large vehicles (i.e., fire trucks, ambulances and garbage trucks) to safely navigate City streets with a clear view of traffic safety devices.

The ordinance applies to trees and tree limbs in City rights-of-way, which may include trees located on side lots. Many corner lots have trees in the front and side of the house that require maintenance to comply with the ordinance.

Residents and business owners must trim trees affecting public rights-of-way to the following heights:

- Where trees overhang residential streets (less heavy truck traffic), there must be a clear space under the tree that is 12 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.
- Where trees overhang non-residential streets (occasional semi-trailer traffic), there

must be a clear space under the tree that is 14 feet above the street surface and 8 feet above the sidewalk surface.

Enforcement Procedures:

- For no action by January 2007, notification letters will be sent to property owners.
- After 30 days, re-inspections will occur, and if trees are not trimmed, violation letters will be delivered to property owners, with the Code Enforcement Department resolving each situation.
- If compliance does not occur within 30 days of the violation letter, a citation to appear in Sugar Land Municipal Court may be issued.
- Following disposition by the court, the City may clear the vegetation and bill the owner.

Questions about maintenance responsibilities should be directed to homeowners associations or the Sugar Land Public Works Department at (281) 275-2450.



Residential

Clear space **12** feet above street surface and **8** feet above sidewalk.



Nonresidential

Clear space **14** feet above street surface and **8** feet above sidewalk.

Senior Adventures

Call 281-275-2885 for registration information or subscribe to *Sweet Notes*, a monthly update of senior happenings.

Ghost Adventures

Friday, Oct. 27

Downtown Houston
Depart at 9 a.m.

Ghosts in downtown Houston? Join us as we find out just how many there are! \$25 for residents*. Lunch is not included.

Shop Til We Drop

Wednesday, Nov. 15

Depart at 6:30 a.m.

San Marcos Outlet Malls!

Friday, Dec. 8

Depart at 9 a.m.

Old Town Spring.

Trips above are \$10 for residents.* Lunch is not included. If trips do not meet the minimum participants two weeks prior to the trip date, we reserve the right to cancel the trip.

* Fees for nonresidents are slightly higher.

Monster Mash

Dancing to the spooky sounds of the Johnny Dyson Band.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

5 - 8 p.m.

Sugar Land Community Center

Tickets are \$4 single/\$6 couple for residents.* Tickets at the door cost slightly more.

Senior Holiday Gala

Johnny Dyson Band

Thursday, Dec. 14

Noon - 3 p.m. (Lunch served at noon.)

Sugar Land Community Center

Admission is free, but bring canned food items for the local food banks. Resident reservations begin Monday, Nov. 6 and nonresidents, beginning Monday, Nov. 20. No reservations will be accepted after Friday, Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. No admittance without a ticket or reservation.



The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council kicked off this year's activities with a formal induction ceremony in September. The group participated in an October "Think Tank" to set their agenda of activities for the entire year.



Boo Bash '06

Saturday, Oct. 28
5-9 p.m., with costume contest starting at 5:30
Sugar Land Community Center
226 Matlage Way

This year's A Pirate's Haunted Ship theme is sure to raise goosebumps with a haunted maze, carnival games and a pumpkin patch for the little ones. Dress in your scariest Halloween costume and compete for great prizes. Admission is free to the community. Boo Bash provides for a safe and fun alternative to trick-or-treating. It's one of the most popular family events in Sugar Land!

Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration

Thursday, Nov. 30
Festivities begin at 5 p.m. (Lighting ceremony planned for 7:45 p.m.)
Sugar Land Town Square

Come out and share the holiday spirit at Sugar Land's annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Santa Claus will be greeting and posing for free photos with adults and kids alike. Festivities include choral and dance performances by local organizations, children's activities and a Snow in the Square area. Everyone is invited to sing along and participate in the fun. Parking and activities are free to the community. Food will be available for a small charge.

For more information on the above events, call (281) 275-2885 or visit www.sugarlandtx.gov.

Note: The correct date for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting is **Thursday, Nov. 30**. Sugar Land's 2006 calendar mailed to residents incorrectly listed this event.

Share Your Holiday Food Drive

Wednesday, Dec. 6
6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sugar Land Community Center
226 Matlage Way

Help feed hundreds of families this holiday season at the Share Your Holiday Food Drive! Donate canned goods, canned meats, dried beans and fruits, flour, rice, sugar, powdered and canned milk, baby formula and diapers and other non-perishable food items. Cash donations or checks made payable to the East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry will also be accepted. KTRK-ABC Channel 13, in partnership with the City, hopes to surpass last year's collection total of nearly 15 tons of canned goods and other non-perishables.

Saturday Night "LYF"

Saturday, Nov. 11
7-11 p.m.
LYF Center
13444 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2

Teens, want a safe and happening place to just hang? Come chill with us for Saturday Night "LYF." Free food, music, games and prizes will be awarded throughout the night. Saturday Night "LYF" is open to Sugar Land residents between the ages of 14 and 18. Remember to bring your student ID or driver's license.

SUGAR LAND TOWN SQUARE HAPPENINGS

October

October 20
Dancing Under the Stars
presented by
Houstonian Lite Health Club
7:30-9 pm

October 21
Movie Under the Moon
8 pm

October 28
SLTS Culture Fest:
Celebrating a Festival of Lights
5-10 pm

November

November 4
Teen Stock
Music Festival - presented by
FCCA
4-10 pm

November 24
SLTS Shopping Survival Station
in the Plaza
8-5 pm

November 30
City of Sugar Land
Christmas Tree Lighting
5 p.m. (Tree lit at 7:45 p.m.)

For more information:
www.sugarlandtownsquare.com

calendar

Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov to confirm City events. For Town Square events, visit www.sugarlandtownsquare.com.

	Date	Event	Time	Location
NOVEMBER	7	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	11	Saturday Night LYF	7 – 11 p.m.	13444 Southwest Frwy, Suite 2
	13-14	AARP 55 Alive		Police Facility
	14	Parks Board Meeting	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	14	Planning and Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	21	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	23	Thanksgiving holiday; City offices closed; no trash collection		
	24	Thanksgiving holiday; City offices closed; Thursday's trash collection		
	25	Friday's trash collection		
	28	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	30	Christmas Tree Lighting activities	5 p.m. (Lighting ceremony planned for 7:45 p.m.)	Sugar Land Town Square
DECEMBER	5	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	6	Share Your Holiday Food Drive	6 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center
	9	Saturday Night LYF	7 – 11 p.m.	13444 Southwest Frwy, Suite 2
	12	Planning and Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	19	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	25	Christmas Day; City offices closed; no trash collection		
	26	Monday's trash collection		
	27	Tuesday's trash collection		



City of Sugar Land
P.O. Box 110
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0110

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUGAR LAND, TX.
Permit No. 8

POSTAL CUSTOMER

City of Sugar Land offices
will be closed Nov. 23-24
for Thanksgiving.

See calendar above
for trash collection.